



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 9-15, 2005 is National Fire Prevention Week

October 9-15, 2005 is National Fire Prevention Week and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has chosen this year's theme as "Use Candles with Care."

Fire Prevention week is timely in not only remembering the Great Chicago Fire but also as weather begins to cool off and the holidays begin the number of fires increases. Nationally fire departments are promoting candle safety because as the popularity in candles increase so has the number of house fires that they cause. A few rules about candles are easy to remember:

- Children and fire are never a good combination, so keep candles out of children's bedrooms and any rooms where they may be left unattended. Air fresheners and other products work just as well and are less dangerous in combating the smells of our loveable children.
- Never leave a candle unattended while burning. When you leave the room, blow out the candle first.
- Only burn 2/3 of any candle, especially gel candles. Trying to get your last few cents worth of a candle could end up costing you much more in the loss of your home or more.
- Keep candles away from anything flammable, such as curtains and holiday cards or decorations.
- Make sure the candle holder is big enough to hold all of the possible melted wax. Wax can get hot enough to spark a fire especially if it drips on things like carpet or fabrics.
- Have a working smoke alarm.

-More-

Fire Prevention Week Continued...

What other concerns does Fall bring?

After this summer, many of us are looking forward to cold fronts but heating homes always brings fire hazards:

- Keep space heaters 3 ft. away from curtains, bedding, piles of clothes, furniture and any other flammable item.
- If you have gas space heaters, check the connections and hoses for leaks by putting soapy water in a spray bottle and spraying them while you turn the gas on. If you have any leaks call your gas company immediately and don't use the heater. If you have children, invest in a metal guard to go around the gas space heater.
- Never heat your home with an open oven. The risks of carbon monoxide poisoning or playing children getting burned are too great.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure to have your chimney cleaned. the build-up old soot in the chimney can ignite.

Read More about Fire Prevention Week at www.nfpa.org